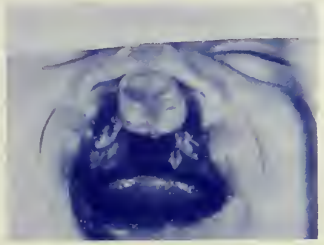
PROBLEMS IN CLEFT PALATE CARE

The immediate problem the child and his parents face is feeding. Usually a special cup, soft, large nipple, Brecht feeder or dropper is used. Holding the baby almost upright often helps in feeding him.

Cleft palate causes speech difficulty and often there are problems with positioning of the teeth. In cleft lip cases cosmetic surgery may be needed to improve the appearance of the lip and nose. Because of these problems, emotional problems may arise.

The variety of specialists on a Cleft Palate Team can help with these problems much more effectively than can one specialist alone.



Early Contacts

Experience has shown us that the parents who had the benefit of early counseling and the benefit of immediate information about the rehabilitation close at hand, have been able to accept the child and care for him much more quickly than those who have faced those first few days hopelessly and helplessly.

(Continued)

PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN SERVICES FROM THE MONTANA CLEFT PALATE PROGRAM

Physician recommends to Division of Child Health that child be enrolled in Program.

Local Public Health Nurse or, in some cases, the Welfare Department will help the family fill out an Application for Service.

After the Application is received by the State Board of Health, the child is registered in the Cleft Palate Program.

The family is helped to plan for lip surgery, if the child has a cleft lip.

Team evaluations are without cost to patients. Financial assistance is given for care when the family are unable to assume this responsibility for surgery or other procedures needed.

At about 1 year of age, the child is given an evaluation by the Complete Team. From then on, he returns to the Team as recommended.

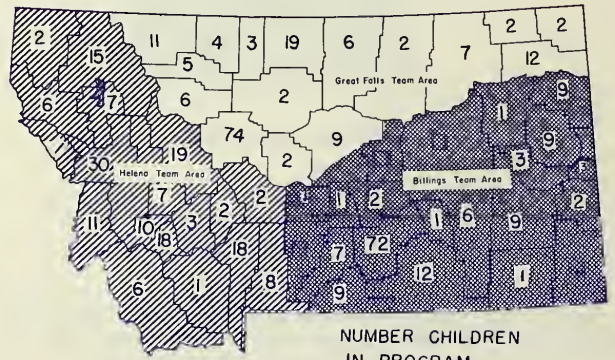
Surgery to close the palate often takes place at about 2 years of age, although this depends on each individual. Some palates can never be closed surgically and the child wears a dental device which closes off the opening in the roof of his mouth.

The family docotr, dentist, Public Health Nurse, and other professional persons involved in the child's care, receive copies of all Team reports.

SBH--4/64

STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA CLEFT LIP AND PALATE PROGRAM



NUMBER CHILDREN IN PROGRAM 1956 - 4/1/64

CLEFT PALATE PROGRAM
DIVISION OF CHILD HEALTH SERVICES
MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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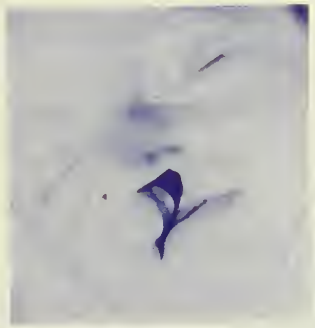


Before Lip Surgery

FACTS ABOUT CLEFTS

Cleft lip (sometimes called hare lip) occurs before birth when tissues fail to grow together properly. The cleft may be on one side of the lip or on both.

An opening in the roof of the mouth may also occur and this is called cleft palate.

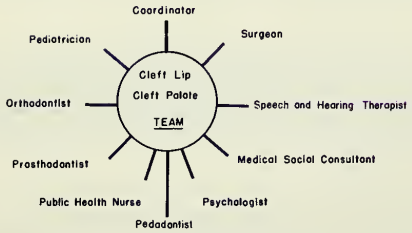
Some babies have both a cleft lip and cleft palate. The cleft may amount to no more than a slight notch or may be completely through the lip, jaw and roof of the mouth.

The cause or causes of clefts are not completely understood. About 22% of the children have other clefts in their family history, while 78% do not have.

Cleft palate is a surgical, dental, speech, and emotional problem; therefore, a Team of such specialists can best plan for the care of a child with a cleft.

He Can Lead a Useful, Happy Life

With the Help of the
Cleft Palate Team



After Lip Surgery

CLEFTS IN MONTANA

In Montana one baby in each 557 live births has a cleft lip or palate. This means about 33 babies each year have this condition.

Most of the children with clefts in Montana receive care under the Cleft Palate Program. Over 300 children are actively receiving care at all times.

Montana has three Teams. They are in Billings, Great Falls, and Helena. They hold monthly clinics in these cities in the spring and fall.

Services for children with clefts extend over a period of many years, usually from infancy until the child's growth is completed. This care is quite expensive and many families need assistance with care needed.

Montana's Program has been supported by the Children's Bureau since 1956. It is expected that the State will need to assume financial responsibility for this Program in the future.

(Over)